United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Saturday, condemns non-fulfilment of Governors Island Agreement by Haiti's military leaders; warns of stronger sanctions against country.

+ Security Council extends ONUMOZ mandate until Friday, pending examination of Secretary-General's report on implementation of General Peace Agreement for Mozambique.

+ Secretary-General expresses shock at killing in El Salvador of leading FMLN member, noting apparent resurgence of politically motivated violent groups; asks Government to take measures to prevent recurrence and to ensure verification access for ONUSAL.

+ Director General of IAEA tells General Assembly further verification measures are needed to meet new challenges to global security; cites progress on verification in Iraq and South Africa and difficulties in Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

+ Secretary-General, receiving UNA-USA Global Achievement Award on Friday, says Member States alone can make United Nations work; expresses hope the United States will fulfil its role and maintain its prestige in Organization.

+ General Assembly commemorates 50th anniversary of Declaration of Four Nations on General Security in Moscow on 30 October 1943.

+ Secretary-General appoints Monica Pinto, Argentinian national, as representative on human rights situation in Guatemala.

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The Security Council has condemned the fact that General Raoul Cedras and the Haitian military authorities have not fulfilled their obligations under the Governors Island Agreement, and has deplored the prevention of the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti as provided for in the Agreement. On Saturday, the day by which President Aristide was to have

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returned to Haiti, Council President Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg (Brazil) read out a statement reaffirming that the Agreement remained fully in force as the only valid framework for the solution of the crisis in Haiti, which continued to threaten peace and security in the region. The statement also reaffirmed the Council's determination to maintain and enforce sanctions against the country until the Agreement was honoured.

The Council said it supported the invitation by Dante Caputo, Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), to all parties to meet to resolve obstacles remaining to the Agreement's implementation. It further reaffirmed its intention to consider strengthening sanctions if the military authorities continued to interrupt the democratic transition.

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The Security Council decided on Friday to extend the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for an interim period until 5 November, pending an examination of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique. On 20 October, the Secretary-General announced a breakthrough in the peace process, involving agreement by Joaquim Chissano, President of Mozambique, and Afonso Dhlakama, President of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), on electoral and demobilization issues. The Secretary-General said the new momentum justified the continued presence of the United Nations in the country.

By unanimously adopting resolution 878 (1993), the Council reiterated the importance it attached to the General Peace Agreement and to the timely fulfilment of it by all parties. The Agreement, which ended 14 years of civil war, was signed last year by the President of Mozambique and the President of RENAMO. ONUMOZ was originally established in December 1992 for a period of ten-and-a-half months until 31 October.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed shock at the killing in El Salvador of a leading member of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), Heleno Hector Castro Guevara, a participant in the negotiations which led to the Peace Accord with the Government of El Salvador early last year. The shooting came only eight days after the murder of another FMLN leader, Francisco Veliz.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Secretary-General said that while the circumstances of Mr. Castro Guevara's death were still under investigation and responsibility had not yet been established, there was cause for alarm at the apparent resurgence of politically motivated violent groups "operating from the shadows". He said he trusted that the Government of El Salvador would take all necessary measures, especially those provided for under the Peace Accord, to prevent a recurrence of such events, and that it would ensure the transparency of the investigation into the murder and full access for verification by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

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The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, presenting the report of the IAEA to the General Assembly today, said that nuclear transparency was the key to confidence-building. He stressed that the IAEA's safeguards and verification system was being strengthened, particularly with respect to detecting any undeclared nuclear material and installations in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency.

Mr. Blix said that while there were still gaps in the IAEA's knowledge about Iraq's nuclear supply and procurement channels, the Agency had concluded that in all essential aspects, the country's former clandestine nuclear weapons programme had been mapped, and had either been destroyed or neutralized. Concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), he said that the possible diversion of nuclear material "cannot be excluded". The DPRK was seeking to restrict the Agency's verification activities and the area of non-compliance with the safeguards agreement had been widening.

Addressing the press later, Mr. Blix said that while much attention was paid to the risks of nuclear proliferation, note should also be taken of the successes in the field of prevention. He mentioned the example of Argentina and Brazil, which had "come a good way" towards accepting safeguards for all their nuclear programmes. He cited South Africa as the first country to have actually rolled back its nuclear weapons status, doing away with its weapons, recovering highly enriched uranium and placing it under Agency safeguards. Mr. Blix added that there was more hope of making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction following the successful negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, receiving the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) Global Achievement Award in Washington on Friday, stated that the world needed the United Nations today more than ever before, but only the Member States could make it work. There was no doubt that the leading nations of the world had the power, resources and creativity needed to shape a new international system, he said, but what was in question was perseverance, commitment and will.

Finding the right relationship between the United Nations and the United States, he said, might be one of the most important tasks of this era. If the United States decided, despite its legal obligations under the Charter, not to fulfil its financial undertaking to the Organization -- to make its contribution conditional or withhold it -- it could do so, he said. But those reponsible should consider carefully what such steps might mean both for American influence at the United Nations and for the precedent they would set for others.

The Secretary-General pointed out that, as in the past, Americans occupied top United Nations posts in Administration and Management, that

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America was the location of the Headquarters and major agencies of the United Nations, and that the major portion of United Nations procurement went to American suppliers. He raised those issues, he said, in the hope that the United States would fulfil its role in the Organization and maintain the hard-won prestige and leadership it had achieved there.

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The General Assembly this morning commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, which was signed in Moscow on 30 October 1943 by the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Chinese Ambassador to Moscow.

The Declaration contemplated the establishment, at the earliest practicable date, of a general international organization, based upon the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States and open to membership by such States, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Four Nations declared that "united action, pledged for the prosecution of the war against their respective enemies, will be continued for the organization and maintenance of peace and security".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Monica Pinto, an Argentinian national, as his representative and independent expert to examine the human rights situation in Guatemala. Dr. Pinto is currently Deputy Director-General of Public Law at the Ministry of Justice in Argentina.

By a resolution of the Commission on Human Rights, Dr. Pinto's mandate will be to examine "the situation of human rights in Guatemala, to provide assistance to the Government in the field of human rights and to submit to the Commission a report assessing the measures taken by the Government of Guatemala in accordance with the recommendations made to it".

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